

# Human Ethology Newsletter

1977

Editor Cheryl Travis Dept. of Psychology

#18

Univ. of Tenn. Knoxville, Tenn. 37919

## BE IT RESOLVED

The Human Ethology sessions held at the Animal Behavior Society meeting at Penn State were especially productive this year. During the business meeting the Human Ethology participants resolved that:

1. All human ethologists be urged to become members of the Animal Behavior Society.
2. Human ethologists will in the future participate at Animal Behavior Society Meetings as full members of the Animal Behavior Society with no further special status.
3. We form a society and take on a temporary name.
4. The temporary name shall be Human Ethology Society.
5. We form a temporary steering committee and charge it with developing and implementing a process for:
  - a) establishing a permanent name for the society
  - b) selecting a spokesperson
  - c) establishing a permanent administrative structure

There are several important consequences of the actions taken at the meeting. Resolutions #1 and #2 are particularly relevant to anyone wishing to present their work at future Animal Behavior Society meetings. To present a paper the author must be a member of ABS or be sponsored by a member of ABS. Information on how to become a member of ABS is on page 2 of this newsletter.

This action does not mean that human ethology is no longer recognized as a special area of interest. The consensus was that the Human Ethology newsletter should continue as a forum for news particularly relevant to human ethologists, and that the international workshops on human ethology should be continued.

Additional information concerning the nomination of members for the permanent executive committee will appear in the October issue of the Human Ethology Newsletter.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

In accordance with resolution number five passed at the business meeting, a temporary steering committee was formed and charged with the responsibility of implementing a process for establishing: a name for the society, a spokesperson, and a permanent administrative structure. Members of the temporary steering committee were elected at the business meeting and are listed below. The newsletter editor will serve as an ex-officio member.

Glen King, Anthropology Program, Monmouth College, W. Long Branch, N.J. 07764

Robert Marvin, Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. 22901

Fred Strayer, Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Larry Stettner, Dept. of Psychology, Wayne State Univ., Detroit, Michigan, 48202.

Gail Zivin, Annenberg School of Communication, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. 19174

Cheryl Travis, Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. 37916

## WE APPRECIATE IT!!

The Human Ethology newsletter is a significant component of the emergence of a viable human ethology society with an international scope. One of the people who has been primarily responsible for the production of the newsletter has been Don Omark (U of Illinois). Through the newsletter, and with the assistance and generally hard work of Bob Marvin (U. of Virginia) and Don together, we were able to hold our first human ethology paper sessions in conjunction with ABS in 1975. This year our paper sessions were coordinated and organized by Joan Lockard (U. of Washington) and Gail Zivin (U. of Philadelphia). Your contribution has been significant and we appreciate it.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Discussion at this year's business meeting ended in a conclusion that a name for our group should be selected by mail response of the full newsletter membership. The major theme discussed was whether the name of the group should include ethology (as was assumed by our past history). It was stated that, for many anthropologists, ethology connotes only "classical ethology" and to some extent some socio-biology, and that these labels are seen as negative by many cultural anthropologists who otherwise might join our group. The group voted to adopt the temporary name of Human Ethology Society. The steering committee suggests 3 names for your consideration: Human Ethology Society, Society for Human Ethology and Society for Evolutionary Studies of Human Behavior. It is now up to you to choose a permanent name.

Send your choice of name (one of the above or any other suggestion you deem appropriate) to us: we will collect suggestions and put the Most Popular Choices to a formal vote via the October Newsletter. Name nominations must reach us by: September 21, 1977. Send them to Larry Stettner, Department of Psychology, Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich. 48202.

## ABS MEMBERSHIP

The next meeting of the Animal Behavior Society will be held at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. Joan Lockard will be the local host. In order to present a paper you must be a member of the society or be sponsored by a member of the society. The membership fee is about \$17.00. If you are interested, write

Richard Terman, Treas. ABS  
Department of Biology  
College of William & Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Members receive the ABS newsletter and the journal, Animal Behaviour. If you are already a member of ABS but have not been receiving these publications, send your inquiries to

Ben Beck, Secy. ABS  
Curator of Research  
Brookfield Zoo  
Chicago, Ill. 60513

## FORUM

As editor, I am taking this opportunity to set some guidelines concerning future newsletters. This past year has been somewhat unusual in that Don Omark and I have both been compiling newsletters, and we have had to have extra notices and announcements in addition to regular editions. The next newsletter will be in October (1977 of course). As of 1978, the newsletter will appear on a quarterly basis (January, March, June, September).

If you have news or notices or any information you think might be of interest to some of the other subscribers please send it to me so that I receive it by the first of the month in which a newsletter is to appear. Appropriate items include the following: abstracts of human ethology articles which you have authored and which are actually being published, brief summaries and critique of relevant books that you have recently published, announcements of research projects you are initiating or conducting (with a call for correspondence from interested parties), notices of future meetings of societies where human ethology research might be presented.

In addition to the various notices and brief accounts mentioned above, it is my sincere hope that you will also make use of the newsletter as a forum in which you wax warm about your own insights and views concerning your own research problems. Have you developed a new perspective on territoriality, aggression dominance, or social organization? Let us know about it. Items that are submitted for the forum section of the newsletter should be between 500 and 1000 words. Since it may be necessary to edit such items, a process in this case that will require mutual consent by author and editor, you should submit these items at least one month in advance of the newsletter in which they may appear; later issues will contain comments and replies.

## MEETINGS

There will be a conference hosted by Werner-Reimers-Siftung in Bad Homburg Germany October 26-29 entitled "Human Ethology: Claims and Limits of a New Discipline," with Konrad Müller as the chairman. The conference is by invitation only. The main topics will be: Phylogenetic & Cultural Ritualization, Organization of Social Behavior, and the Ontogeny of Primate Behavior.

JOURNALSThe Behavioral and Brain Sciences

THE BEHAVIORAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES (BBS) is a journal providing open peer commentary Treatment (henceforth called Treatment) for appropriate submitted papers from any area of psychology, neuroscience, behavioral biology, or cognitive science. Papers should be submitted to the editor who, in collaboration with the associate editor for the subdiscipline most central to the content of the submission, will select referees from among the Board of Editorial Commentators. If referees and editors judge that the article is appropriate for Treatment (see criteria below), it will be returned to the author for revision, if necessary, and then circulated to 50 commentators chosen by the referees and editors from among the Board, Corresponding Associate Commentators, and appropriate specialists not affiliated with BBS, including those recommended by the author.

To be eligible for publication, a paper should not only meet the standards of a journal such as PSYCHOLOGICAL REVIEW or the INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF NEUROBIOLOGY in terms of conceptual rigor, empirical grounding, and clarity of style, but it should also offer a clear rationale for soliciting Treatment. That rationale should be provided in the author's covering letter, together with a list of suggested commentators selected from among the BBS Associateship and qualified unaffiliated specialists.

A paper for BBS can be (1) the report and discussion of empirical research that the author judges to have broader scope and implications that might more appropriately be reported in a specialty journal; (2) an unusually significant theoretical article that formally models or systematizes a body of research; or (3) a novel interpretation, synthesis, or critique of existing experimental or theoretical work. Occasionally articles dealing with social or philosophical aspects of the behavioral and brain sciences will be considered for Treatment.

Some appropriate rationales for seeking Treatment would be that:

a submission bears in a significant way on some current controversial issues in behavioral and brain science;

its findings substantively contradict some well-established aspects of current research and theory;

it criticizes the findings, practices or principles of an accepted or influential line of work;

it unifies a substantial amount of disparate research;

it has important cross-disciplinary ramifications;

it introduces an innovative methodology or formalism for consideration by proponents of the established forms;

it significantly integrates a body of behavioral and brain data;

it places a hitherto dissociated area of research into an evolutionary or ecological perspective; etc.

Articles should be in APA style not to exceed 14,000 words (and will ordinarily be considerably shorter). Authors are requested to submit their original manuscript with eight copies for refereeing to this address:  
Stevan Harnad, Editor/The Behavioral and Brain Sciences/P.O. Box 777/Princeton, N.J. 08540.

Environmental Psychology  
& Nonverbal Behavior

ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY & NONVERBAL BEHAVIOR publishes original theoretical, empirical, and methodological research in the area of the title, including such fields as proxemics, paralanguage, nonverbal emotional expression, kinesics, environmental perception, design, crowding, behavioral ecology, and other applications of nonverbal behavior and environmental psychology to the present human condition.

MANUSCRIPTS must be submitted in triplicate to the Editor, Randolph M. Lee, Ph.D., Dept. of Psychology, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, and must conform to the style of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 2nd edition, 1974, and should be consulted regarding all matters of style, including title, abstract, footnotes, referencing, tables, etc.

ARTICLES should not exceed 20 typed pages, including tables, figures, and references. Only in rare circumstances can this limit be exceeded.

Typically, manuscripts will be reviewed by at least two members of the editorial board or consulting editors. Every effort will be made to notify authors of publication decision within two months.

REVIEW POLICY provides the author the choice of having his/her manuscript reviewed "blind" (reviewer not provided with author's name) or "open," and author should so state

when submitting manuscript. Following review of manuscripts, if author and reviewer both agree, reviewer will be revealed to author and author will be revealed to reviewer. This policy allows improved professional communication by making authors and reviewers aware of others working in their area of interest. Further details regarding this review policy are available from the Editor.

EARLY PUBLICATION is possible for accepted articles at cost to the author. Details will accompany notice of acceptance.

#### BOOKS

FACE-TO-FACE INTERACTION by Starkey Duncan & D. W. Fiske (University of Chicago). Halsted Press, 1977, 350 pp., Price 19.95. The book is presented basically as a manual for research with specifics for methodology, design, and analysis. The position is taken that face-to-face interactions can be viewed as having a "grammar" or definite structure in the same way that language has grammar. Two specific examples of the authors' large scale research projects are presented. Contents include chapters on basic issues, measurement techniques, individual differences, descriptive statistics & group differences, and relationships between acts, as well as a metatheory for face-to-face interaction.

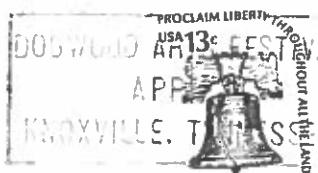
#### PEOPLE

The May issue of the APA Monitor carried an interview with John Bowlby, internationally recognized authority on the etiology of childhood disorders. During most of his career (he is now technically retired) he was associated with The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations in

London. His early work, conducted just after World War II, was sponsored by the World Health Organization which requested him to investigate the mental health of homeless children. His work began with the study of maternal deprivation and expanded to include the phenomenon of attachment and its various mechanisms. Much of this early work is reported in a book entitled Child Care and the Growth of Love. He was influenced by Lorenz and Tinbergen, and after reading their work concluded that there was a great deal of relevance for ethological work in the human field. Bowlby's comments in the interview were particularly interesting because he remarked on various research paradigms and concluded that "Now in my opinion, it is the ethologists who have the strongest paradigm of all, because the biological and evolutionary substrate they bring to the field is immensely powerful."

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

The last issue of the Human Ethology Newsletter to appear in 1977 will be mailed in October. Beginning January 1978 the newsletter will appear quarterly. The annual subscription fee will be \$3.00 and is effective on a calendar year basis (January to December). If you do not currently subscribe and would like to begin receiving the newsletter as of October, please send a check for \$4.00 to cover the last issue of 1977 and the four issues of 1978. Checks should be made out to Human Ethology Newsletter and mailed to Cheryl Travis. This is the only time when middle-of-the-year subscribers will receive a discount.



Carol Cronin Weisfeld  
3711 N. Lakewood Ave.  
Chicago, Ill., 60613

HUMAN ETHOLOGY/SOCIOBIOLOGY  
NEWSLETTER No. 18  
May, 1977

Last issue from the University of Illinois. If you want to continue to receive the newsletter please send the equivalent of U.S. \$2.50 to cover postage (or note saying why it cannot be sent) to: Dr. Cheryl Travis (payable to her), Department of Psychology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37916.

Dr. Joan Lockard was recently elected Program Chairman of the Animal Behavior Society (U.S.) and will host the 1978 ABS meeting at the University of Washington. This places at least one human ethologist on the ABS board.

"Why not meet with the ABS?" is a question frequently heard over the last few years. Suggestions have been made that we meet with the anthropologists, psychologists, political scientists, etc. While each of these other fields should be broached so that ethology/sociobiology can demonstrate their relevance to human behavior in its myriad forms, still our own sub-discipline is too diverse to hope that the symposia they might submit would be included in a convention meeting. In contrast, for both practical and theoretical reasons meeting with the ABS is attractive. Some of these reasons are succinctly stated in EDITORIAL:8 from "Growing Points in Ethology," by P. P. G. Bateson and R. A. Hinde, Cambridge University Press, 1976. A short excerpt follows:

Carving up science along phyletic lines does, therefore, seem retrogressive. Without denying that man is special, and deserves a special focus, no ethologist can afford to be deprived for long of the benefits of a comparative approach. To some extent this is already exemplified in studies of non-human primates. Through limiting their vision by phyletic boundaries, primatologists have too often tackled issues with which ornithologists were already highly experienced. The same could easily happen to human ethologists. Even though the current spirit is one of exploration, the camp of human ethologists with its shining new banner could easily become a defensive fortress. And, before long, as the banner becomes a little tattered, the fortress could become a prison. We believe it is healthier to keep research focussed on problems rather than on species - even one as important to mankind as man. (p. 529)

For suggestions about areas that human ethologists should explore, see N. Tinbergen's chapter on Ethology in a Changing World in the same volume.

Article on Doing Naturalistic Observations

While the article attached to the end of the newsletter by Robert Sommers may bring joy to the hearts of some, as it did to ours, it will probably not result in any additional funding for research projects until the current peer review system is changed to include divergent, i.e., ethological, approaches to research investigations. We attempted to reorder the layout of the following pages, but to no avail. In the end Xeroxing proved to be the quickest way. What you have to do is pull out page 5 and tape it to the bottom of page 4 to make it appear as in the original issue of the APA Monitor. We would like to thank the American Psychological Association (who holds the copyright to the article) and to Dr. Robert Sommers for permission to reproduce this article.

On a More Holistic Approach to Research

The 8 April 1977, Vol. 196, No. 4286 issue of Science contains an article by G. L. Engel on "The need for a new medical model: A challenge for biomedicine." In this article Dr. Engel argues for a more holistic approach to the providing of both medical services and the pursuance of research questions. The editors entirely concur and feel that the ideas expressed therein should be seriously considered by human ethologists.

Journals

HUMAN ECOLOGY -- provides a forum for papers concerned with the complex and varied systems between man and his environment. Research papers from such diverse fields as anthropology, geography, psychology, biology, sociology, and urban planning are welcomed. Send papers to: Prof. Andrew P. Vayda, Human Ecology: An Interdisciplinary Journal, Cook College, P.O. Box 231, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J. 08903, U.S.A.

JOURNAL OF SOCIAL AND BIOLOGICAL STRUCTURES -- their basic goal is to help provide the stimulus and forum for the publication of research about structures and processes in biological and social organizations. They hope to play a contributory role in fostering the emergence of hypotheses and theoretical propositions about the dynamical properties of deep seated constitutional structures. They expect that most articles will deal with specific problems or findings. Topics might range from structures in relation to all aspects of human behavior (e.g., aggression, linguistics, belief systems, policy formation, etc.), and studies of structural and other principles of biological systems which may relate to the human species. Additional information can be received from, and articles can be sent to: J. F. Danielli, Alden Memorial - Room 3, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass. 01609, U.S.A.

Books

Three recent ones that look interesting are: (1) Communicative Behavior and Evolution, M. E. Hahn and E. C. Simmel (Eds.), Academic Press; (2) Perceiving, Acting, and Knowing, R. Shaw and J. Bransford (Eds.), Lawrence Erlbaum/Halsted Press; and (3) Face-to-Face Interaction (Eds.), also Erlbaum/Halsted.

Comment

It has been nice corresponding with so many of you over the last few years. If work is ever found perhaps we can continue our discussions at some future time.

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